

If our King hath lost his way, and thereby learned to look to his path better hereafter, and taught many Successors to King it right for many Ages; Methinks it should impetrate a Royal Redintegration, upon a Royal acknowledgment and ingagement. But how should an erring King trust a provoked Parliament? Surely he may trust God safe enough; who will never trust that State more with a good King, that will do ill to a King that is turned so good. Methinks those passages of Scripture, *Isai.* 43. 24, 25. *Chap.* 57. 17, 18. The strange illation, *Hos.* 2. 13, 14. should melt a heart of steel into floods of mercy.

For others, were my head, one of the heads which first gave the King Counsel to take up these Armes, or to persist in them, when at any time he would have disbanded, I would give that head to the Kingdom, whether they would or no; if they would not cut it off, I would cut it off my self, and tender it at the Parliament door, upon condition that all other heads might stand, which stand upon penitent hearts, and will do better on than off; then I would carry it to *London-Bridge*, and charge my tongue to teach all tongues, to pronounce Parliament right hereafter.

When a Kingdom is broken just in the neck joynt, in my poor policy, ropes and hatchets are not the kindest instruments to set it: Next to the spilling of the blood of Christ for sin, the sparing of the blood of sinners, where it may be as well spared as spilt, is the best way of expiation. It is no rare thing for Subjects to follow a leading King; if he will take his truncheon in his hand, it is to be expected many will put their Swords in their Belts. Sins that rise out of mistake of judgment, are not so sinful as those of malice ordinarily: and when multitudes sin, multitudes of mercy are the best Anodines.

—*gratia gratis data, gratissima.*

*Grace will dissolve, but rigour hardens guilt:  
Break not with Steely blows, what oyle should melt.  
In Breaches integrant, 'tween Principals of States,  
Due Justice may suppress, but Love redintegrates.*

Whosoever be pardoned, I pray let not *Britanicus* scape, I mean a pardon. I take him to be a very serviceable Gentleman; Out of my intire respect to him, I shall presume to give him half a dozen stitches of advice:

I intreat him to consider that our King is not onely a man, but a King in affliction; Kings afflictions are beyond Subjects apprehensions; a Crown may happily ake as much as a whole Common-wealth. I